



THE STRIKER STATEMENT



Greetings From Striker Six:

Greetings to all the Iron Brigade members in Baumholder. We miss you all!!! Sure hope you are all doing well there; we are doing great, here. You would be extremely proud of the great job your soldiers are doing here in Kuwait. They are training hard and working hard to stay safe and get our job done. It is very hot, but we are getting used to it and the mornings and evenings are great when it cools down 20 or so degrees and we get a cool breeze. I don't think you'll here your soldier complain about "rainy" Baumholder anymore. We just had a rainstorm the other night--both drops--and that has been all the rain we've seen since we've been here. All the units have made the transition well and the deployment went great. We're looking forward to moving out of here and assuming our mission and are putting a lot of work into final preparations to do that. Morale is high and the food is not bad--better than the MREs we're looking forward to. Sales are brisk at the local PX for camping stools, mattresses, and Gatorade. For the mothers back there, we wish you all a "Happy Mothers Day!" Stay safe back in Baumholder, enjoy the weather there and know we are always thinking about you. Good Luck to the Baumholder High School Boys and Girls Sports Teams this week--we're all cheering for you! God bless you all.

JD Johnson, Striker Six

POST ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A lot of the post facilities are curtailing their hours of operations based on not having enough workers to provide full service to the customers. Check with the local facilities to get a listing of current hours. The following are just a few of the facilities that have changed times: PX, Shoppette, Theater, all food concessions, and power zone.

DEPLOYMENT TIP:

If you are going back to the States during this deployment, you should inform your Unit Rear Detachment Commander and provide a emergency contact number to the unit. Provide a phone number, address and email if possible. The email will be the only means of communication you can expect from the unit if you depart Baumholder.

40th ENG

Hello everyone,

Well, today was a lot like yesterday. Except that it did not rain. It was just as hot and we had another sandstorm. We continue to move our equipment from the port to the camp. Another ship came in with Bulldogs' and Charlie Rock's equipment. Assassins and HHC pulled maintenance on their vehicles and adjusted their loads for the road march north. B Co. and C Co. taught the Rules of Engagement and practiced their battle drills for an urban landscape.

We have six soldiers today. Each company is represented today. From HHC, we have SPC Delvin Bailey. He says, "One good thing about being out here is that everyone is being safe and looking out for each other, especially the married guys. We're all taking care of each other."

A Co.'s SPC Richard Soukenka from Oceanside, CA says, "We have been here for 11 days now and it is not getting any cooler, but we are getting along here just fine. We stay in the shade during the high time of the day and train in the mornings. The only bad thing I can say about this place is that it's a long distance to get to chow, but it is worth the walk and the food is great. I can't wait until we get back. We caught SPC Morris in the Bulldogs tents. He wants to tell his family, "I am doing fine here. Trying to stay out of the sun, wind, and sandstorms. I miss you very much and can't wait to get home. I will try to call as soon as possible. I love you all very much and think of you all every day. Love, Kody"

SSG Stuart was acting as the enemy during urban operations training with Charlie Company. He send the following message, "Hello baby doll. Things are going really well. I'm training really hard. The heat is something else and we're drinking a lot of water. Love you."

PFC Steven Sizemore, from Panama City, FL. When he was asked if he would like to send a message to the families in our battalion, he said, "I am here to perform my duty because it needs to be done. I am looking forward to returning home to my loved ones."

SPC Jerry Hughes, from Cincinnati, OH. He said, "I am very proud to serve my country and make my family proud, and I can't wait to see them again."

2-6 IN, Gator Headquarters --Life in the desert isn't easy but the 2-6 Gators have had the best of luck so far. Bare essentials such as food, showers, and sleeping



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arrangements all require special attention but from the trip over to everyday living most soldiers have had a good first week.

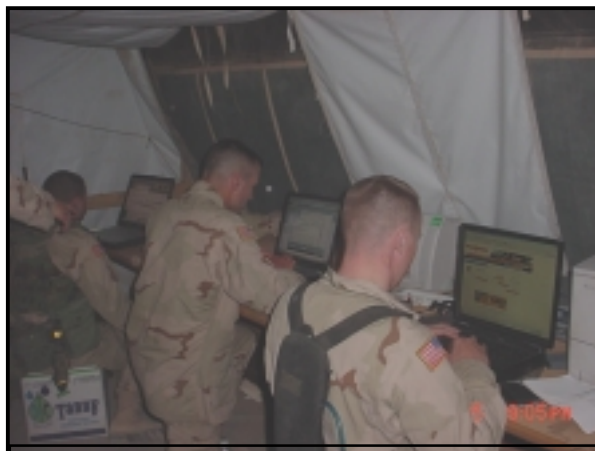
Many Gators commented that the 6.5-hour flight to the desert was comfortable; flight attendants from Delta Airlines served double-portion meals and provided letter writing materials for those who wished to send a message home. In-flight movies and the opportunity to sleep made the flight seem short to most.

A three-hour bus ride into the heart of the desert brought the men to the camp they currently call home and from there, soldiers moved into 100-man tents. "Its hotter inside the tents than it is outside in the sun," noted PFC Josh Rader of B Co, 1plt. "And it stinks at night when everyone takes their boots off." Wildlife moves freely in and out of living spaces to include kangaroo rats, neon green scorpions, and even Egyptian cobras. PFC Mike Wirth (B Co, 2plt) stomped out a camel spider in his tent that was "about the size of a peanut-butter jar lid." The subject of camp food was addressed enthusiastically. SPC Anthony Robles (B Co, 2plt) said, "The dining facility here is better than Baumholder's; the service is faster and the portions are huge." Most of the men of 2plt agreed that the dining arrangements in camp were good but PV2 Levi Lyda (B Co, 1plt) added, "The chow hall is far from our tent." Three times a day, the soldiers of 2BN walk 1.2 kilometers in full combat gear to and from the camp dining facility. Fortunately, the walk is made worthwhile by surprisingly appealing entrees such as lobster tails, crab legs, truly fresh vegetables, sweet and sour pork, and a variety of juices

Showers in the desert are difficult to coordinate because trucks come to fill shower water reservoirs only once per day. Two entire battalions share ten stalls and a limited supply of water but most agree being able to shower at all is a nicety while on deployment. Clothes are washed from the same reservoir and it is each soldier's responsibility to use as little water as possible to ensure that everyone has a chance to conduct basic personal hygiene. Even still, the water usually runs out by nightfall leaving some soldiers to wait for the next day. When asked to comment on the showers, SGT Francisco Enriques, B Co, 2plt responded, "I haven't gotten to take one yet." He agreed, however, it was nice to know that showers will be more frequent here than during a rotation at Hohenfels.

Despite sandy walks to chow and short showers, desert life has so far had no impact on the Gator

Battalion's spirit. Most Gators have been surprised by the urban conveniences imported into camp and they are hopeful that these will be omens of smooth times to come.



(B Co.) SGT Lee Rinehart, SSG Aubrey Ingalls, PFC Steven Ruben use precious time allotted to them to type emails to loved ones. Each company receives time about once every four days.



'Planning and Operations,' HHC, Command Drivers, and RTO'S



The 2-6 IN medics hamming it up.



1-6 IN:



CSM ANDREWS

1-35 AR:

The last elements of the Conqueror Battalion reached Camp New Jersey this week, with the arrival of Headquarters Company. HHC dove right in and joined A, B, and C Companies in individual soldier training that consisted of close quarters marksmanship, react to contact battle drills, and associated tasks. SSG Arbuckle showed exceptional stamina and leadership in the searing heat when he led the reflexive fire training for the mechanics. Reflexive fire training enables the soldiers to quickly acquire targets within the urban terrain.



HHC S-3 Shop soldiers train in the 4 man stack method

A Company SPC Ryan M. Davis experienced a unique treat as he ran into his sister, PFC Noelle Davis, a medic with the 62nd Engineers at the Camp Mess Tent. SPC Davis had not seen his sister in over 6 months. SPC Davis' mother had informed the 1-35 soldier that his sister was in the CENTCOM Area of Operations, but he had no idea they would be able to see one another. Noelle surprised her brother with a visit that allowed the two soldiers to catch up on family business.



A Companies SPC Davis with his sister PFC Davis

B Company lead the way this week in Urban Operations training, with SFC Hadley giving his platoon an especially good foundation for his commander, CPT Doboszinski, to build upon. Room clearing, hallway clearing, and stack procedures for personnel entering a room were covered.

C Company's 1SG Alonso was the center of attention with his 19 years of experience while showing the junior soldiers of C Company how to clear a room in a building. The junior soldiers of C Company sat with eyes riveted on their 1SG as he explained the techniques they would use in the upcoming months.





C Company soldiers practice Close Quarters Marksmanship

The weather on Camp has been excellent—only one dust storm this week. Temperatures have been in the high 90s to mid 100s, but a small, rare rain shower today did a little to mitigate the heat. Mail, perhaps the only thing that is truly able to get soldiers' minds off of the heat, began to arrive on 6 May. As usual, 1-35 outdid everyone else, with a 17% greater take than the next closest unit. The smiles and mood were contagious, and morale rose even higher than when it was announced that we could eschew the body armor and helmets within the confines of the Conqueror area of operations. Of note, was a package from the SIGO's (1LT Jeremiah Wildermuth) grandparents, which was graciously shared with the entire CTCF. On behalf of all the soldiers of 1-35 Armor, I say, "Keep Writing!" We appreciate your letters of love and support. As the Conquerors continue to train for upcoming operations in theater, all the soldiers wish to send their thanks and appreciation to the families that support 1-35 from our home station of Baumholder. CONQUERORS!



1-35 AR Chaplain CPT Bennett

47th FSB:





SFC Mapes and son



HHC BDE



BDE S3 Section



BDE S3 TEST FIRE RANGE